



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
(916) 554-2700

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
1130 O. Street, Rm 3654
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 498-7272

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30, 2006

Contact: Patty Pontello
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home/>

WOULD-BE ECO-TERRORIST ADMITS GUILT

SACRAMENTO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that LAUREN WEINER, 20, of Pound Ridge, NY entered a plea of guilty to one count of conspiracy in connection with an eco-terrorist plot to blow up commercial and governmental facilities in the Sacramento, California region, including the United States Forest Service Institute of Forest Genetics located in Placerville, California. The group planned to take credit for their actions on behalf of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF).

The case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by federal, state and local law enforcement through the efforts of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys R. Steven Lapham and Ellen V. Endrizzi.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, WEINER acknowledged that the federal terrorism enhancement applies to her crime, which provides for increased penalties for crimes that involve or are intended to promote a federal crime of terrorism. Congress has defined a federal crime of terrorism to include those that involve the use of explosives that are "calculated to influence or affect the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct."

Under the terms of the plea agreement, WEINER also agreed to cooperate with the government's further investigation and prosecution of the case, including testifying against her co-defendants, ERIC McDAVID and ZACHARY JENSON.

WEINER is scheduled to be sentenced on August 8, 2006, by United States District Judge Morrison C. England. WEINER's co-defendants, ERIC McDAVID and ZACHARY JENSON, remain in custody. Their next court appearance is on August 15, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.

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